

may become the next tragedy in Africa: the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Since I was last here, I have heard renewed pleas from my constituents who remember the heartbreak and irreplaceable loss from the 1998–2000 war over the border that cost the lives of as many as 100,000 people.

To avoid a repeat of this tragedy, the President and the Secretary of State must rally the world community to achieve a peaceful resolution to this matter.

I cosponsored CHRIS SMITH's legislation, H.R. 4423, the Ethiopia Consolidation Act, which would advance human rights in the Horn of Africa, and link U.S. foreign aid assistance to full compliance with the Algiers Agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

As I said the last time I was here, we must see to it that the tragedy of last decade is not repeated.

CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that, today, we would have passed the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Educational Improvement Act. It is unfortunate that, yet again, we have not been able to muster enough support to discuss the vitality of Vocational and Technical Education in our country. Education has always been the golden key to a democracy. Our forefathers realized this, and we must realize this as we continue to move forward into this information age. There is no excuse, in this day and age, for a government to be derelict in its duties to provide education and opportunity to its citizens. It is even more important today, as jobs dwindle from the bombardment of cheap foreign competition, to realize that the welfare of our nation rests upon the shoulders of the educated and skilled laborers. The Carl D. Perkins Act is a giant step in realizing our duty, as Congress, to Americans. It is a pathway that guides the vast resources of America to the Americans who need them.

It is not a coincidence that Illinois and twenty-two other States were awarded incentive grants from the Department of Education in 2003 for exceeding their performance level—our programs are working, but they need to be improved. With an unemployment level of 4.5 percent in Illinois and 4.6 percent throughout United States, it is essential for us to work now to create comprehensive plans to prepare our youth and adults for the future, by building their academic and technical skills.

Furthermore, we must not stop with youth and adult education and job training; we must expand the discussion of education an job opportunities to other Americans—those who are incarcerated and who will later be released. It has been reported that 62 percent of those individuals released from state prisons will be rearrested within three years. If we do not tackle this dire issue with real solutions we will have silently condoned a vicious cycle that destroys communities.

As we begin our recess, it is important to recognize that we can no longer afford to put the discussion of education on the back burn-

er. It is, and always will be, one of my top priorities.

RECOGNIZING RUBY FRANCES MYRICK WILSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a Mississippian who has given a century of service to her family, friends and community. She has been a wife of sixty-six years, a mother of seven children, and wonderful Christian woman. Next month, she turns one-hundred years old, but the light in her eyes and the good works of her hands continue to love and bless her neighbors.

Ruby Frances Myrick Wilson was born August 30, 1906 to James Wilson Myrick and Myrtle Rebecah Alderman Myrick. She studied at Otoe Elementary School, was in the first graduating class of Stringer High School in 1924, attended Mississippi Southern Teachers' College in Hattiesburg and Clarke College in Newton, as well as Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. She took her teaching certificate and taught fourth grade at Polkville and third grade at Fellowship Community in Jasper County. She married a farmer named William Judson Wilson and reared seven children together for sixty-six years until his death.

She is still actively engaged in house-keeping, cooking, gardening, reading and studying, quilting, sewing, and crafting. She cooks special dishes for shut-ins, church and community socials, and special needs diets. She creates gift baskets filled with her baked breads, cookies, relishes, preserves, and jellies. She cuts flowers from her garden to make arrangements for special occasions. She grows plants to put into decorated pots for gifts. The hallmark of Ruby's talents is quilting and she has made over a hundred for newly weds, graduates, babies, and crisis victims.

Mr. Speaker, Ruby is thoughtful and careful to feed her mind, body and soul; keeping active and balancing a strong body and her strong faith. Her commitment to the Word of God and her saving Lord has given her purpose and her life's strength. I've known her family my whole life and she has been a blessing to them, her community, her friends and everyone she comes in contact with. I hope this Congress joins me in wishing her a very happy one-hundredth birthday and praying she has many years with the Mississippi she so loves and serves.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5932: FARM RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I introduced legislation yesterday, along with my Alabama colleagues Representatives JO BONNER and MIKE ROGERS, to enable America's farmers to better manage the risk to their livelihoods in times of severe weather and skyrocketing energy costs. The Farm Risk Management Act (FARM Act) would create risk management accounts, using both USDA and individual

farmer contributions, to reduce the financial impact of disasters on the agriculture community. The FARM Act would allow farmers to insure their income by creating a whole-farm risk management program based on total revenues from all their farming activities. This is a departure from the current crop insurance program, which provides coverage based on a specific commodity. The new risk management account goes beyond the scope of current crop insurance by allowing farmers to withdraw funds from their accounts to help offset any unforeseen farm expense including high energy or fertilizer costs. With my new proposal, a farmer would deposit money into the new risk management account. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would then match the farmer's contribution in this tax-deferred, interest bearing account, rather than subsidizing a portion of the crop insurance premium for the farmer as is done presently. As a result, farmers would effectively be self insured.

More and more, we are seeing farmers lose their farms due to the unfortunate combination of increasingly harsh weather, rising operational costs and a Federal crop insurance program that is too expensive to help many cover their losses. Recent Farm Bill hearings and subsequent meetings I have had with farmers in the Southeast have led me to the conclusion that current crop insurance programs are not working. The present system is too expensive, leaving many farmers exposed to uncontrollable risks. It also allows room for fraud which only serves to drive up program costs for everyone.

There is an urgent need for significant crop insurance reform that will offer hardworking farmers the tools they need to manage the unique risks involved in agricultural production. With the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization, we have a chance to address this critical issue, and I am offering this legislation to advance debate. This approach of individual risk management accounts could address many of the problems associated with the current crop insurance system and save the Federal Government money by alleviating the future need for ad hoc disaster assistance. Most importantly, it will give farmers struggling against natural forces beyond their control greater flexibility to make a living while performing the vital task of putting food on America's table.

HONORING WILSON BATISTA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow at the passing of one of the Dominican community's most beloved young musicians, Wilson Batista.

On June 18, the world lost 29-year-old classical pianist Wilson Batista to a sudden brain aneurism. At the time of his death, he was attending the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied under with internationally recognized pianist Philip Kawin.

Born in the Dominican Republic, but raised in Washington Heights, Wilson came from a